30

POL 14 VIETS

987

Department of State TELEGRAM

Saigon 4823 9/3/67

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04823 031919Z

51
ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC ~~01~~ 03,H 02,SAL 01,SAH 03,P 04,
INR 07,AID 30,IO 21,EUR 25,RSR 01 /168 W

P R 031730Z SEPT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6121
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4088
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2400
AMCONSUL DANANG 875

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CRS/IMR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szuberg DATE 12/23/81
EO ☐ or ☒ ____
TS AUTH ____ R ____
E.O. ____ ☐
DECLASS ☐ ____ ☑
RELEASE ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS ____

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 4823

SUBJECT: VOTING IN SAIGON

1. REPORTED BELOW ARE OBSERVATIONS BY EMBOFF AT FOUR POLLING STATIONS IN SAIGON.

2. AS OF 11:00 AM INDIVIDUAL POLLING BOOTHS HAD TAKEN AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 300 VOTERS (ONE BOOTH AT CITY HALL HAD RECEIVED 720 VOTERS BY 2:00 PM). CHARIMAN OF ONE POLLING

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 4823 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LOCATION EXPECTED A TOTAL FOR THE DAY OF ABOUT 80[illegible] VOTERS FOR EACH OF GIA LONG'S 22 INDIVIDUAL BOOTHS, FOR AN OVERALL TOTAL OF 17-18,000 VOTERS.

3. IN NONE OF T[illegible] FOUR LOCATIONS WERE VOTER LISTS CONSULTED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 04823 031919Z

REGULARLY (AND NOT ALL BOOTHS HAD COPIES OF VOTER LIST). OFFICIALS CHECKED THE VOTER'S ID CARD WITH HIS VOTING CARD; IF THERE WAS NO DISCREPANCY VOTER WAS ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. OFFICIALS SAID THAT IF THE TWO CARDS DID NOT JIBE, VOTER LISTS WERE CONSULTED. THEY EXPLAINED THAT CONSULTING VOTER LISTS EACH TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO TIME CONSUMING (VOTER LIST AT EACH POLLING STATION CONSIST OF STACK OF BOOKS A FOOT HIGH). HOWEVER, IT DID APPEAR THAT MILITARY VOTER LISTS (SEPARATE LISTS) WERE CHECKED FOR EACH MILITARY VOTER TO CONFIRM THAT THE SOLDIER WAS AUTHORIZED TO VOTE AT THAT LOCATION.

4. POLLING OFFICIALS (ALL APPARENTLYCIVIL SERVANTS SELECTED BY CITY HALL FROM AMONG LISTS OF EMPLOYEES SUBMITTED BY EACH GOVERNMENT AGENCY) SAID THAT CANDIDATES' REPRESENTATIVES WERE ON HAND, THOUGH NOT IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO WATCH ALL

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 4823 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
POLLING BOOTHS ALL THE TIME. REPRESENTATIVES CIRCULATED FROM ROOM TO ROOM WITHIN THE POLLING LOCATION. EMBOFF MET TWO, BOTH OF WHOM WERE THIEU-KY RPRESENTATIVES.

5. VOTING FOR UPPER HOUSE LISTS SEEMED TO PROCEED WITH SURPRISING RAPIDITY. SOME VOTERS ACCOMPLISHED IT SO QUICKLY THAT THEY COULD ONLY HAVE MADE RANDOM SELECTION. OTHERS APPARENTLY HAD THEIR CHOICES WELL IN MIND WHEN THEY ENTERED THEBOOTH, AND TOOK 3-4 MINUTES TO FIND BALLOTS THEY WERE LOOKING FOR.

ATMOSPHERE WAS QUIET AND UNHURRIED, BUT AT THE SAME TIME RATHER FESTIVE, WITH MANY VOTERS OBVIOUSLY DRESSED IN THEIR SUNDAY BEST. BUNKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED